IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method to provide incentives for client machines to contribute resources to a peer-to-peer computer network, the method comprising:

receiving requests for information from a plurality of client machines;

determining if the client machines are contributing resources to peer-to-peer sharing; and

sending the requested information to the client machines~~, wherein priority is given to~~ based upon a priority scheme giving priority to requests from clients which are contributing resources to peer-to-peer sharing.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of giving priority to client machines which contribute resources to peer-to-peer sharing further comprises giving higher priority in proportion to the level of resources contributed.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the resources client machines may contribute to peer-to-peer sharing comprise:

disk space;

bandwidth;

CPU resources;

memory; and

specified number of connecting users.

4. (Currently amended) A method for accessing information in a peer-to-peer computer network by a device, the method comprising:

contributing, by the device, computer resources to peer-to-peer sharing technology;

requesting, by the device, information from a network server~~, wherein the request is given priority in proportion to the level of resources contributed to peer-to-peer sharing by the device~~; and

receiving, by the device, the requested information from the network server, the requested information being provided by the network server based upon a priority scheme giving

priority to providing the requested information in proportion to a level of the computer resources contributed to peer to peer sharing by the device.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 4, wherein the resources contributed to peer-to-peer sharing comprise:

disk space;

bandwidth;

CPU resources;

memory; and

specified number of connecting users.

6. (Currently amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use in a data processing system, to provide incentives for client machines to contribute resources to a peer-to-peer computer network, the computer program product comprising:

instructions for receiving requests for information from a plurality of client machines;

instructions for determining if the client machines are contributing resources to peer-to-peer sharing; and

instructions for sending the requested information to the client machines~~, wherein priority is given to~~ based upon a priority scheme giving priority to requests from clients which are contributing resources to peer-to-peer sharing.

7. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 6, wherein the instructions for giving priority to client machines which contribute resources to peer-to-peer sharing further comprise instructions for giving higher priority in proportion to the level of resources contributed.

8. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 6, wherein the resources client machines may contribute to peer-to-peer sharing comprise:

disk space;

bandwidth;

CPU resources;

memory; and

specified number of connecting users.

9. (Currently amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use in a data processing system, for accessing information in a peer-to-peer computer network, the method comprising:

instructions for contributing computer resources to peer-to-peer sharing technology;

instructions for requesting information from a network server~~, wherein the request is given priority in proportion to the level of resources contributed to peer-to-peer sharing~~; and

instructions for receiving the requested information from the network server, the requested information being provided by the network server based upon a priority scheme giving priority to providing the requested information in proportion to a level of the computer resources contributed to peer to peer sharing.

10. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 9, wherein the resources contributed to peer-to-peer sharing comprise:

disk space;

bandwidth;

CPU resources;

memory; and

specified number of connecting users.

11. (Currently amended) A system to provide incentives for client machines to contribute resources to a peer-to-peer computer network, the system comprising:

a receiving component which receives requests for information from a plurality of client machines;

a processing component which determines if the client machines are contributing resources to peer-to-peer sharing;

a register which maintains a queue~~, wherein priority is given to~~ of the received requests based upon a priority scheme giving priority to requests from clients which are contributing resources to peer-to-peer sharing; and

a communications component which sends the requested information to the client machines.

12. (Original) The system according to claim 11, wherein the register which maintains the queue further comprises a second queue for requests from clients which contribute resources, wherein higher priority is given in proportion to the level of resources contributed.

13. (Original) The system according to claim 11, wherein the resources client machines may contribute to peer-to-peer sharing comprise:

disk space;

bandwidth;

CPU resources;

memory; and

specified number of connecting users.

14. (Currently amended) A system for accessing information in a peer-to-peer computer network, comprising:

a peer-to-peer sharing component which contributes computer resources to peer-to-peer sharing technology;

a communications component which requests information from a network server~~, wherein the request is given priority in proportion to the level of resources contributed to peer-to-peer sharing~~; and

a receiving component which receives the requested information from the network server, the requested information being provided by the network server based upon a priority scheme giving priority to providing the requested information in proportion to a level of the computer resources contributed to peer to peer sharing by the peer-to-peer sharing component.

15. (Original) The system according to claim 14, wherein the resources contributed to peer-to-peer sharing comprise:

disk space;

bandwidth;

CPU resources;

memory; and

specified number of connecting users.